AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical preparation to be administered to a patient for at least one of diagnosis and treatment of tissue or a cell lesion followed by localized irradiation using a beam emitted by a source of light energy, the pharmaceutical preparation comprising:

a physiologically acceptable solvent; and

~~an ester of 5-aminolevulinic acid (E-ALA)~~ ALA hexylester (h-ALA) for generating protoporphyrin IX (PpIX) which is present in the pharmaceutical preparation at a concentration of less than 1 % by weight.

20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 19, wherein the ~~ester of 5-aminolevulinic acid (E-ALA)~~ ALA hexylester (h-ALA) is dissolved in a solvent which is compatible with a human organism.

23. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 22, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of sterilized water, physiological NaCl solution, and a phosphate buffer solution.

24. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 22, wherein the pharmaceutical preparation contains a component to adjust the pH of the pharmaceutical preparation to a physiological value ranging from about 4.8 to about 8.1.

25. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 19, wherein the pharmaceutical preparation comprises a complementary substance for preventing transformation of the protoporphyrin IX (PpIX) into a heme by iron complexing in the cells.

26. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 25, wherein the complementary substance is ethylene diamine tetraacetate (EDTA).

27. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 25, wherein the complementary substance is deferoxamine mesylate.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 19, wherein the ~~ester of 5-aminolevulinic acid (E-ALA)~~ ALA hexylester (h-ALA) is dissolved in a solvent which is compatible with an animal organism.

30. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 29, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of sterilized water, physiological NaCl solution, and a phosphate buffer solution.

31. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 29, wherein the pharmaceutical preparation contains a component to adjust the pH of the pharmaceutical preparation to a physiological value ranging from about 4.8 to about 8.1.

32. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 19, wherein, following administration of the pharmaceutical preparation to the patient and irradiation of the tissue or the cell lesion by the source of light energy, a fluorescence emitted by protoporphyrin IX (PpIX) generated by the ~~ester of 5-aminolevulinic acid (E-ALA)~~ ALA hexylester (h-ALA) contained in the pharmaceutical preparation is detected to facilitate diagnosis of the tissue or the cell lesion.

33. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical preparation to be administered to a patient for at least one of diagnosis and treatment of tissue or a cell lesion followed by localized irradiation using a beam emitted by a source of light energy, the pharmaceutical preparation comprising:

a physiologically acceptable solvent;

~~an ester of 5-aminolevulinic acid (E-ALA)~~ ALA hexylester (h-ALA) for generating protoporphyrin IX (PpIX) which is dissolved in the solvent at a concentration of less than 1% by weight;

a pH in the range of from about 4.8 to about 8.1; and

a complementary substance for preventing transformation of protoporphyrin IX (PpIX) into a heme by iron complexing in live cells, the complementary substance selected from ethylene diamine tetraacetate (EDTA), and deferoxamine mesylate.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim ~~34~~ 33, wherein, following administering the pharmaceutical preparation to the patient and irradiation of the tissue or the cell lesion by the source of light energy, a fluorescence emitted by protoporphyrin IX (PpIX) generated by the ~~ester of 5-aminolevulinic acid (E-ALA)~~ ALA hexylester (h-ALA) contained in the pharmaceutical preparation is detected to facilitate diagnosis of the tissue or the cell lesion.

36. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method of diagnosis of a tissue or a cell lesion in an organism, said method comprising:

(a) administering to the organism ~~a~~ the pharmaceutical preparation of claim 19 ~~comprising:~~

~~(i) a physiologically acceptable solvent; and~~

~~(ii) an ester of 5-aminolevulinic acid (E-ALA) which is present in the pharmaceutical preparation at a concentration of less than 1% by weight~~;

(b) irradiating the tissue or the cell lesion with a source of light energy; and

(c) detecting fluorescence emitted by protoporphyrin IX (PpIX) generated by the ALA hexylester (h-ALA) ~~ester of 5-aminolevulinic acid (E-ALA)~~.

37. (Withdrawn-currently amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the concentration of the ALA hexylester (h-ALA) ~~ester of 5-aminolevulinic acid (E-ALA)~~ in the pharmaceutical preparation ranges from ~~between~~ 0.01% by weight to 0.5% by weight.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36, wherein the ester of 5-aminolevulinic acid (E-ALA) is a hexylester of 5-aminolevulinic acid (h-ALA).

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of sterilized water, physiological NaCl solution, and a phosphate buffer solution.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36, wherein the pharmaceutical preparation contains a component to adjust the pH of the pharmaceutical preparation to a physiological value ranging from about 4.8 to about 8.1.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36, wherein the pharmaceutical preparation comprises a complementary substance for preventing transformation of the protoporphyrin IX (PpIX) into a heme by iron complexing in the cells.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein the complementary substance is ethylene diamine tetraacetate (EDTA).

43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein the complementary substance is deferoxamine mesylate.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36, wherein the organism is a human or an animal.

45. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method of treatment of a tissue or a cell lesion in an organism, said method comprising:

(a) administering to the organism ~~a~~ the pharmaceutical preparation of claim 19 ~~comprising:~~

~~(i) a physiologically acceptable solvent; and~~

~~(ii) an ester of 5-aminolevulinic acid (E-ALA) which is present in the pharmaceutical preparation at a concentration of less than 1 % by weight~~; and

(b) irradiating the tissue or the cell lesion with a source of light energy.

46. (Withdrawn-currently amended) The method of claim 45, wherein the concentration of the ALA hexylester (h-ALA) ~~ester of 5-aminolevulinic acid (E-ALA)~~ in the pharmaceutical preparation ranges from ~~between~~ 0.01 % by weight to 0.5% by weight.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the ester of 5-aminolevulinic acid (E-ALA) is a hexylester of 5-aminolevulinic acid (h-ALA).

48. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of sterilized water, physiological NaCl solution, and a phosphate buffer solution.

49. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the pharmaceutical preparation contains a component to adjust the pH of the solution to a physiological value ranging from about 4.8 to about 8.1.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the pharmaceutical preparation comprises a complementary substance for preventing transformation of the protoporphyrin IX (PpIX) into a heme by iron complexing in the cells.

51. (Withdrawn-amended) The method of claim ~~51~~ 50, wherein the complementary substance is ethylene diamine tetraacetate (EDTA).

52. (Withdrawn-amended) The method of claim ~~51~~ 50, wherein the complementary substance is deferoxamine mesylate.

53. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the organism is a human or an animal.

54-67. (Cancelled)

68. (New) The pharmaceutical preparation of claim 19, wherein the concentration of the ALA hexylester (h-ALA) ranges from 0.01% by weight to 0.5% by weight.

69. (New) The pharmaceutical preparation of claim 33, wherein the concentration of the ALA hexylester (h-ALA) ranges from 0.01% by weight to 0.5% by weight.